IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

TOKURA, Toshiyuki, et al.

Appl. No.:

New

Group:

Filed:

September 4, 2003

Examiner:

For:

RAMAN AMPLIFIER AND OPTICAL RELAY

TRANSMISSION SYSTEM

LETTER

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 September 4, 2003

Sir:

Under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 119 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(a), the applicant(s) hereby claim(s) the right of priority based on the following application(s):

Country

Application No.

Filed

JΡ

2002-355341

December 6, 2002

A certified copy of the above-noted application is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

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2611-0196P Attachment

DRA/msh

(Rev. 04/29/03)